

Family Support Council Meeting
September 19, 2020
Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Sarah Carlson, Patricia Norin, Bridget Leiseth, Michelle Powers, Joanne Hairy Shirt, Tina Kenzer, Kristi, Diane Baumiller, Amber Finnesand, Krista Bau

Members absent: Jen Carda, Letty Thelen

DHS Staff: Jaze Sollars, Kade Anderson, Joey Younie

Opening Round and Introductions:

Sarah called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM CT.

Approval of minutes:

Sarah is requesting adding two members joining late after the first paragraph. Pat request motion to approve minutes with change. Michelle seconds. Voice vote passes.

Presentation by Tacey Dunwoody, State Director, Benchmark Human Services:

Tacey Dunwoody and Teri Bukowski presented how the Benchmark Family Support Program operates. Benchmark started doing Family Support two years ago and currently have 6 support coordinators with Teri having a smaller caseload and supervising. They have approximately two hundred and forty families they work with across the state mostly in the southeast area. Benchmark's coordinators caseloads are currently full but have talked about the possibility of expansion. Benchmark maintains an ongoing planning list. They may be currently full but still gather information on possible participants. Benchmark makes it a point to try and assist families in all circumstances and provide sound customer service. They try and work as a team with other Family Support Agencies and with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to try and assist families with accessing the Family Support program.

Tim Reinbold joined the meeting.

Introduction of Joey Younie, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities:

Joey Younie introduced herself to the Family Support Council.

General System Overview and Update:

Family Support State Action plan does not have a lot of updates. 1350-1400 participants on the Family Support 360 program and about 130 on planning lists for the different agencies.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) will be starting soon. It is part of Cures ACT. The purpose of EVV is to regulate and monitor fraud in Medicaid programs. The projected cost savings will be redistributed to other programs. Live verification process with GPS location and it will be time stamped. It is a way for Medicaid to monitor service delivery. It will be signed off on by the provider. Using FOCOS as the platform to administer EVV.

Council member Pat Norin is currently using EVV in the Beta format and gave the council a brief update. Running two systems co-currently. Clock in every day through phone, put hours in, check boxes for time doing duties, and then clock out. Clock in and out with each visit. Found a lot of bugs that needed fixed, issues with synchronizing, time issues, discovering things aren't correct. Going live first of December.

EVV must be in effect by January 1, 2021.

Incontinence Supply Issues

Amber shared she has had issues with diapers being found in a 30 day quantity but she is being able to find them in larger quantities from online retailers.

SD Support Families Community of Practice Update:

Jaze shared a work group to centralize information for families about guardianships and supported decision making.

SD Support Families COP requested information from the Family Support Council about guardianships and supported decision making. Discussion was had about if the Family Support Program should create a checklist of information to discuss prior to guardianships. The support that families receive in regards to guardianship is unique in each situation.

Upcoming meeting Wednesday September 23rd from 12 to 1. Topic - Community Living

Charting the Life Course will have live webinars that are available on Fridays. Pat will be sending out an email with the information. These will typically be less than 10 minutes. They have been recorded and are available to watch.

SD Council on Developmental Disabilities Update:

Arlene Poncelet shared an update on the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities.

South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities has a Request for Proposal (RFP) for projects within the State of South Dakota. Law enforcement training for developmental disabilities has been occurring virtually. The Unified Champion school fund has also been renewed. The third year of Employee Coach at Volunteers of America is being funded. An RFP has been requested for Native Americans with Disabilities to provide leadership and advocacy training where the people are. SD Council on Developmental Disabilities needs to create a 5-year plan for the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities.

A survey was sent out to families.

Participants top issue was mental health.

Family member's main issues were recreation and socializing with people in the community and also the availability of community-based services.

Council does have funding available and is looking for ideas.

Changes in the Program due to COVID-19:

Overview was given by Division of Developmental Disability staff on changes with the program regarding COVID-19. Supporting technology and virtual supports. Allowing families to make their decision on involvement. No major changes regarding COVID.

Discussion was had on possible expansion of some possible services during COVID-19. At this time discussion will need to happen between DDD staff.

Janet Whiting joined the meeting.

Family Support Changes in Programs (AWC):

Overview was given by DDD staff on Agency with Choice (AWC). As of right now 5 AWC providers. In order to have staff for Care Services use agency choice model to serve as a co-employer. Have support with coordinator. AWC provider covers paperwork. A few AWC providers were deciding to limit the number of hours a provider could work. Hitting a threshold of employees qualifying for benefits. DDD was not prepared for this to happen. We have started having meetings to try and develop a solution. They have had two meetings with the AWC providers to try and develop a solution. Looking at other states and other programs that use an AWC model to learn what it will take to get this resolved. There is no quick fix to this. DDD does understand the burden and barriers that this is going to have for our participants. In the meetings with AWC providers two of the AWC providers have moved to limit hours. This will continue to be an agenda topic. Sarah ask if the Family Support Council could be kept in the loop of changes.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received.

Council Discussion

Council discussion was had about completing the census. It was discussed that there is an opening for a Council member with a family member over 21. Next scheduled meeting is December 4th & 5th in Watertown with a possible meeting at New Horizons to talk about their transition age program.

Adjournment

Michelle motions to adjourn the meeting Tina seconds the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM CT.

X

Amber Finnesand
Secretary